

## REMARKS

Claims 23-34 are pending in the present application. Applicant has cancelled claims 23-34 and has submitted replacement claims 35-46 in response to claim objections and rejections.

In response to objections, “said method” has been inserted before “comprising” in claim 35 (replacing claim 23), and a comma has been inserted after “variables” in the ninth line of claim 46 (replacing claim 34).

In response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, process steps are recited in claim 35 (replacing claim 23) and apparatus structures are recited in claim 46 (replacing claim 34) to clarify the limitation “whether to use or reject”. In claim 35, the limitations “the flow” and “the pouring” have been rewritten to remove indefinite construction. In claim 35, both instances of “them” in the fourth line have been replaced with “said parameters” for clarity. In claim 36 (replacing claim 24), the limitations “the valve cylinder end” and “the valve cylinder” have been rewritten to remove indefinite construction.

In claim 37 (replacing claim 25), the limitation “the local conditions of use” has been rewritten to remove indefinite construction. In claim 38 (replacing claim 26), the limitation “the instant determination” has been rewritten to remove indefinite construction. In claim 40 (replacing claim 28), the limitation “the same flow rate” has been rewritten to remove indefinite construction. In claim 41 (replacing claim 29), the limitations “the radial wear” and “the gate” have been rewritten to remove indefinite construction. In claim 46 (replacing claim 34), the limitations “the control”, “the flow”, “the pouring”, “the results”, and “the operations” have been rewritten to remove indefinite construction.

The drawings have been objected to because of an uncorrected term in the flowchart in Figure 1. A corrected replacement sheet is supplied herewith.

The abstract has been rewritten to eliminate phrases which can be implied.

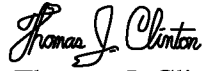
A substitute specification has been submitted herewith. In the substitute specification, the strikethrough term “a” has been deleted before “radial wear” in paragraph [0005]. The reference cited in paragraph [0012] is submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement. In the second line of paragraph [0015], “plates history” has been replaced with “history of the plates”. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35-46 are patentable over the prior art. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Date: March 3, 2008

Vesuvius  
250 Park West Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

Respectfully submitted,

  
Thomas J. Clinton  
Reg. No. 40,561